I’m pleased to welcome you to campus and have this opportunity to showcase Georgia Tech.

Your day is designed to provide you with more information about:

- Our joint bioengineering program with Emory University;
- The Center for Education Integrating Science, Math and Computing, CEISMC for short, which supports science education K-12 and helps cultivate future students;
- The Office of Minority Educational Development, OMED for short, which gives our minority students the support they need to succeed;
- FOCUS, which encourages minority college students to pursue graduate education.
- And Women in Science and Technology, which provides support and leadership opportunities for female students.

So, what I want to do briefly is fill in some of the gaps around these programs and put them into a larger context.

Georgia Tech is a Carnegie I research university with a student body of 15,500 and a research budget of more than $300 million. We are ranked among the top ten public universities in the United States.

As our name implies, we have a technology focus. We are the largest producer of engineers in the nation, and our College of Engineering ranks among the top five. That is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of it, but that bright spotlight shining on engineering has a tendency to make us look more one-dimensional than we really are. Georgia Tech is actually more well-rounded than people might think. For example:

Half of our students play musical instruments, and we offer a certificate program in music.

- We have a School of Modern Languages where students learn Russian and Chinese along with the more conventional foreign languages.
- We have an endowed chair in poetry held by Thomas Lux, a respected contemporary poet who has had nine volumes of his poetry published.
- Our Robert Ferst Center for the Arts offers our campus and the surrounding community world-class performances from artists like Yo Yo Ma, Midori, and the Harlem Dance Theatre.
We also have a strong focus on undergraduate education that is more like a liberal arts college than a research university:

- All classes are taught by professors and even senior faculty who hold endowed chairs – we use teaching assistants as mentors to help out behind the scenes.
- We believe in giving our undergraduates their fair share of the dynamic energy of our research enterprise, both by injecting leading-edge knowledge into the classroom and by providing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research.
- We have an endowed chair in servant leadership, and make a concerted effort to help our students develop the collaborative leadership skills that will enable them to make a difference.
- We have the largest voluntary co-operative program in the nation and one of the oldest in the world, which gives our students a keen sense of the practical aspects of their education and enables them to make knowledgeable career decisions.

We believe in diversity, and we work hard to make it a reality:

- We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the integration of our campus – first university in the deep South to integrate voluntarily – and have been named No. 1 in the nation in the graduation of African American engineers at all degree levels by Black Issues in Higher Education.
- At the same time, however, we do not have an affirmative action preference. Georgia Tech has always believed that anyone who can do the work belongs here, regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender. Our approach is to hold everyone to the same high standards, and provide the support and encouragement students of all varieties need to achieve them.
- We are also a national leader in graduating women engineers. Most colleges worry about having too many women; as a technological institution, we work to expand the number of female students and faculty. The Women’s Resource Center provides a comfortable gathering place for the women of our campus community and is a clearinghouse for services and resources.
- We have Georgia Tech educational platforms in four locations: Southeast Georgia; Metz and Paris in France; Singapore, and we are encouraging more of our students to participate in study-abroad programs.

We also believe in lifelong learning:

- K-12 education through CEISMC and engagement with our neighborhood schools – Centennial Place Elementary, Inman Middle, Grady High School.
- We offered the nation’s first online master’s degree in mechanical engineering, and have been expanding our online degree offerings.
- Our continuing education students take than 60,000 CEUs a year.
- GT has special niche in lifelong learning arena, because we specialize in catching people up with technology. Good example is Wesley Center for New Media
which focuses on helping people communicate better in the world of electronic networking and communications.

- Global Learning Center.

The Global Learning Center is part of Technology Square, which is a literal expression of Georgia Tech’s commitment to reach out to the neighborhoods around us and be partners in creating the quality of community life that we all want to achieve.

Georgia Tech is the work of many generations of faculty, students, staff and alumni, and we very proud of the level of excellence we have achieved. We want to define the technological university of the 21st century – to be the place that others look to for ideas, models, and innovations. But that goal is not an end in itself; it is what will enable us to help shape the future for our students, our community, our state and nation, and the world.